

REMARKS

Claims 20-31 are pending. Claims 20-31 are rejected.

Applicants note with appreciation that the rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, the rejection of claims 1-7, 10-12, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Lin et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,871,927), and the rejection of claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Weissman (U.S. Pat. No. 6,287,825) in view of Lin (U.S. Pat. No. 5,871,927) have been reconsidered and withdrawn. Further, the Applicants note with appreciation that these references have not been cited against new claims 20-31.

Rejection under Obviousness-Type Double Patenting over Claims 20-31 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,887,666.

The Examiner has rejected claims 20-31 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 10 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,887,666. Office Action of April 27, 2006 at page 3. Without acquiescing to the propriety of the present rejection, and solely to expedite the allowance of the present application, Applicants file herewith a terminal disclaimer of the patent term of the patent granted on the instant application that extends beyond the patent term of U.S. Patent No. 6,887,666. Indeed, Applicants do not necessarily agree that the respective claims are not patentably distinct from each other and Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have properly and fully addressed each of the Examiner's grounds for rejection. Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes further discussion will aid examination and advance prosecution of the application, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

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If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the fees to undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-1067. If any extensions or fees are not accounted for, such extension is requested and the associated fee should be charged to our deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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